

# Vol. 25 No. 1

Jan.—Mar. 2024

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<https://wba-tca-eastern.org>

## WB&A Board of Directors

### Officers:

President: John Buxton

Vice Pres: Charles Doring

Treasurer: Michael Ackerman

Secretary: Bob Gray

### Directors:

Doug Campbell

Dave Eadie

John Gomoljak

Chuck McGinnis

### Eastern Division Representative:

Bob Heine

### Key Contacts:

President: John Buxton

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Past President: Tom Salen

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### Membership:

Phone:

### Train Shows:

Annapolis

Arbutus

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## *"The Trolley"*

### *The Official WB&A Newsletter*



WB&A Chapter - Eastern Division - Train Collectors Association  
Established 1964

## *President's Report*

I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year as we start 2024. I also would like to welcome our new board of directors lead by our new president, John Buxton. Congratulations to all who were on this past ballot. As I mentioned at our Mini meeting in November this was the first time in 14 years that my name did not appear on the ballot. I have to say it felt a little strange. I will now participate on the board in the position of Past President. It's been my honor and privilege to serve on the board as an elected board member for all these many years.

We had a great Mini meet/General business meeting in November at the Baltimore Trolley Museum. A beautiful day to ride the trolleys and listen to future plans for the museum. It was great to see so many of you at the meeting. It was hard to believe that we hadn't been to the Baltimore Trolley Museum since 2018.

As I looked around, I noticed a number of new clothing items from our WB&A clothing store. Besides myself, a handful of people had on brand new shirts with our logo on them. Thanks to Ron Edwards, our clothing store is up and running. Please take advantage of it and pick yourself up some spirit wear for club events or other train events.

Our treasurer, Michael Ackerman, and our secretary, Bob Gray have brought us into the 21st-century by allowing us to pay our dues on our website electronically. Michael reported that in the first week we had three people take advantage of paying their dues online. I am sure many of you will take advantage of this opportunity in the future! We are also able to take credit card payments for entrance fees for the public to all of our shows as well.

What an exciting day today for those who were at our coffee and Trains monthly meeting. For this month, we morphed into trains and lunch attending Annemarie Gardens holiday train layout, followed by lunch at Boomarang's restaurant in Solomons Island. One of our members, George Leah works on building this layout every year, each year is a different layout. We also had the opportunity to visit George's home layout while we were down in the area. Thank you George for opening up your home and allowing us to see your spectacular layout. It is a real work of art!

In September we had a successful show at Arbutus and in a week from now we will be back in Arbutus for our December show. This will be our third show in Arbutus, and each one has gotten larger attendance each time. Thanks to our meet chairmen, Chuck and Carol McGinnis, John Buxton, and everyone who's hard work make this show a success.

To keep informed, please follow us on our website and Facebook account as well as our E blast of the club's calendar with all our new events! We have a lot planned for 2024. It should be an exciting year as we celebrate our 60th year! Our monthly coffee

and Trains continues, Annapolis show in February, kids day at the National Trolley Museum and our 60th anniversary luncheon just to name a few activities planned in the first half of the year!

We have a job opening! There's an opportunity for someone to take over as club historian. For a long time now Carol McGinnis has been filling that role. She has requested to pass that position on. Anyone interested please Contact, myself, John or Carol.

As always look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events ! Until then!

Tom Salen

WB&A Past President



## Treasurer's Report as of 12/1/2023

By Mike Ackerman

The Chapter's financial activities for Jan. 1, 2023 through Dec. 9, 2023 are summarized below. If you have any other questions or comments feel free to contact me at mjackermn@gmail.com

Check Book Balance – Jan. 1, 2023                   \$32,034  
Check Book Balance - Dec. 1, 2023               \$31,772

Significant Activities Jan. 1, 2023 thru Dec. 1, 2023

	Income	Expenses
Train Meets	6,320	5,242
Membership:		
Dues—2022 (2)	30	
Dues prepaid —2022 (172)		
Dues — 2023 (154)	2,310	
Dues prepaid — 2023 (50)		
Dues — 2024 (34)	510	
Dues prepaid — 2024 (1)		
Dues — 2025 (1)	15	
Meetings		1,794
Supplies		304
Social Activities	1,215	2,012
Trolley		444
Election		263
Board	58	572

\* Note: Revenue and expenses listed as "prepaid" were received or paid before Jan. 1, 2023 and are therefore not accounted for as revenue or expense for 2023 since they are included on the Check Book Balance of January 1, 2023.



Keats A Pullen, III



## TOP TEN WB&A BENEFITS

- 1 Fun and Fellowship with your Train Friends
- 2 Wealth of information available from other collectors, operators and layout builders.
- 3 A wonderful opportunity to participate at the local level in the world's greatest hobby.
- 4 Free admission to local WB&A Train Shows. (Show advertised in local newspapers).
- 5 Free admission at Members Only WB&A Swap Meets.
- 6 Receive quarterly the WB&A Newsletter "The Trolley".
- 7 Access to the chapter facebook page [www.facebook.com/wba.chaptertca](http://www.facebook.com/wba.chaptertca)
- 8 Share in the excitement of the Toy Train Hobby.
- 9 Serving as a committee member or officer at the local level is very rewarding.
- 10 Buy, Sell, Trade with local train enthusiasts.

## WB&A Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

WB&A Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
JULY 19, 2023

WEBER'S CIDER MILL

Meeting Start Time: 11:00 AM

Meeting End Time: 1:55 PM

### In Attendance

Present: Tom Salen, John Buxton, Bob Gray, Chuck McGinnis, John Gomoljak, Bob Heine, Michael Ackerman, Ron Edwards and David Eadie

Absent: Charlie Doring

Guests: Carol McGinnis, Paul Pullen, Chris Gale, Ken Brown, Cindie Brown, Doug Campbell, and Stuart Hirsch, Bill Moss

A quorum being determined, the meeting was called to order by Tom Salen, WB&A President.

**OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. President's Report - Tom Salen**

Tom Salen welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed activities including establishment of the WB&A Land's End Store. Ron Edwards shared information on how to purchase items with the WB&A logo from Land's End. The group expressed their gratitude for Ron's efforts to get this service available to WB&A members.

**2. Secretary's Report – Bob Gray**

The minutes from the May 17, 2023 Board Meeting were reviewed by BOD members. A request was made for additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

**3. Treasurer's Report – Michael Ackerman**

Michael reported that the Club's financial position is strong. He called attention to the expense of the most recent General Business Meeting. Tom Salen agreed that the costs were too high and spoke about efforts to seek another venue and reduce the cost of the event. Mike also suggested that the WB&A should have benefitted to a greater extent from the Kid's Show. Tom Salen mentioned that we supporting the mission of the NCTM as a fellow organization. Chuck McGinnis suggested that we ask to use the NCTM Board room BOD meetings as a form of recompense for the profits NCTM gained from the WB&A Kid's Show. Bill Moss noted that we support other organizations. The Treasurer's Report for January 1, 2023 thru July 15, 2023 was distributed and reviewed and approved by the BOD.

**4. Membership Report –Bob Gray**

Bob reported that we currently have 228 people on our official membership list, including 11 people who have not paid in almost 2 years that we are about to cut from our Membership list in November, leaving our active membership at 217. Of those 217, 178 have paid their 2023 dues, leaving 39 unpaid for 2023. Bob said that on September 1, he would send a mailing to the unpaid members from 2022 telling them they would be removed from our Membership list on November 1, 2023. Bob will also do a mailing to those who have not paid their 2023 dues. The BOD agreed to change the "cut-off" date from November 1 of the following year to March 1 of the year. We will publish this change in Trolley. Bob Gray share an example of a possible new format for WB&A membership cards that might streamline the responsibilities of the Membership Chairperson. He will come up with some cost information on this idea and some advantages and disadvantages of going to a new format.

**5. Social Committee – Carol McGinnis**

Carol reviewed the updated WB&A Calendar, including our first Start Your Afternoon with WB&A at

A question was asked about the WB&A table at the October 2023 Timonium show. John Buxton said we have a table but no one to staff it at this time. We do put up signs and provide handouts. John suggest a Start Your Day

w/ WB&A at Union Station in DC. Bob shared dates and sites for Start Your Day w/ WB&A through the end of the year. Carol spoke about details for the Anniversary Banquet to be held in Annapolis Saturday May 4, 2024 at 1:00 PM. She noted that 103 WB&A Anniversary Boxcars have been ordered. Chuck McGinnis suggested giving door prize cars at the banquet. Chuck will investigate the acquisition of 4 cars costing around a total of \$100. Carol will produce a budget for the banquet for next BOD meeting. She noted that WB&A had another successful Night at the Ball Park in June and Bill Moss said he would set up an unofficial Baysox game in September. John Buxton shared that VRE is offering free train rides. Finally, Carol will be sending out 200 postcards to people who have been attendees at the Arbutus.

**6. Eastern Division – TCA Report – Bob Heine**

Bob reported and answered questions related to the upcoming York Show. He shared details of the newly implemented Pre-Show Train-Related Sales Event that will take place early in the week of the actual show. Bob announced that there will be no evening auction at this coming York Show.

**ONGOING BOARD BUSINESS**

**1. Arbutus Meet – Chuck McGinnis**

Chuck reported that we have a Gathering Permit for the Arbutus Show. 67 tables sold for September 43 for December Show. Chuck expressed concern about the low response by vendors to the show. Tom Salen recommended stepping up advertising and that we do have the ability to take a loss on this show. Deposit for show needs to go to Arbutus FH by August 15. Bob Gray will get insurance certificate for the show asap. Food truck for the Arbutus Show is being sought. Mike A will bring megaphone John B will do vendor nametags and Facebook advertising, and signage. Bob Gray will take care of the membership table. Parts person will be there.

**2. Annapolis Show - John Gomoljak** John suggested we get a Food Truck for the Annapolis Show. Discussion ensued on of how to handle food for this event. John Gomoljak will seek a food truck for the event.

**3. WB&A Store at Land's End – Ron Edwards**

Covered in President's Report.

**4. Website Update** Bob Gray

Bob Gray reported that in the previous 12 months there were about 5000 visitors to the website and for the past 30 days the number was 257.

**5. Trolley Update**

Paul Pullen reported that most recent Trolley turned out well. He has begun gathering articles for the upcoming edition. Bob Gray asked that the group express their



gratitude to Paul for his efforts. Tom Salen reiterated our gratitude for Paul's work on the Trolley.

6. **Kid's Train Show** - Bob Gray had suggested three dates for the 2024 Kid's Train Show at the National Capital Trolley Museum. The group agreed that the show will be held on May 11, 2024. Bob asked for a volunteer to set up the large layout at the show and feedback on content and format as we get closer to the show date.

7. **Elections** – Carol McGinnis

Tom Salen announced that Ron Edwards has agreed to join the BOD. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for Ron to serve on the Board for the balance of the current year. Doug Campbell also expressed an interest in serving on the Board. Carol said that Charles Doring will run for WB&A Vice President.

8. **WB&A Facebook Page** – John Buxton

John Buxton has been adding information and pictures to the page. You must join Facebook to access this page.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Taking Payment by Credit Card** – Michael Ackerman

Michael Ackerman suggests that we get the hardware and software to enable members to pay for membership and registration fees at WB&A Meets/Shows using their credit card. He recommends that we add a \$.50 fee to each transaction to cover the additional costs. Bob Gray added that using this technology would streamline the membership committee's work load. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer is authorized to arrange to take credit cards for admission and membership payments at all future WB&A Train Meets with the addition of an appropriate convenience fee. The Treasurer is authorized to purchase the necessary hardware and software. Passed unanimously.

2. Dave Eadie asked if anyone had picked up the sign from Mrs. Burket as yet. Tom Salen will pick it up and then the Board will address how and where it will be used. The Memorial Brick for Steve Burket has been ordered.

3. John announced that the Baltimore Trolley Museum is considering painting a real street car in WB&A colors.

4. November Mini Meet/General Business meeting at Baltimore Trolley Museum Nov 11, 2023. 9:00 AM.

NEXT MEETING – September 9, 2023 at Arbutus Fire Hall at 1:30 PM at State Fare Restaurant in Catonsville.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn at 1:55 pm.



**TCA EASTERN DIVISION REPORT -  
November 2023**

From the WB&A Chapter Representative to the E. Div.,  
Bob Heine

The recent semi-annual Eastern Division's Toy Train Meet was again a success at the York, PA Fairgrounds during the 3rd week of October. The tally of show pre-registrations was higher than for the prior April York show and higher than last October's show in 2022.

Things went well and the weather all week cooperated. Preliminary accounts show that this train show took in \$18,000 more in revenue when compared to the past April "York" event.

This October YORK Show included a FIRST-EVER change and it was very successful. That experimental change was having a totally open to the public "Pre-Show" train sales event on the 3 days just prior to the official show opening of the TCA on Thursday. The Pre-Show was inside the Purple Hall on a Monday, Tuesday & half a day on Wednesday. The Division sold more than 135 eight-foot sales tables inside the Purple Hall and these tables were available to NON-TCA members as well as TCA members (as long as all sellers proved they had a Pennsylvania certificate to collect the state's sales tax). When it came to potential customers for this 3-day Pre-Show, it was open and free to the public and not just TCA members. This was somewhat in competition to the open "bandit" meets held on those same 3 October days at the nearby motels and the firehouse.

The week's "York" events again included a late Tuesday afternoon "Welcome Party", held in the fairground's Orange Hall lobby with food and drinks (even wine). The charge was \$10 per person and it was a sell-out; a few people even had to be turned away. The drinks & warm food was enjoyed by all along with the informal setting.

An official rule change was passed by the Eastern Div. Board in October and it was done in an attempt to get major manufacturers and bigger vendors back to our York Meet. As some of you members know, Lionel & Bachmann (for example), were absent for many years from our semi-annual York, PA show. Beginning in April of 2024, all dealers in the Orange & Purple Hall will be allowed to have their aides & "helpers" attend without being required to be annual TCA members. All Board members voted in favor of this change and it does not change any rules for the 4 other NON-dealer halls.

A PENNSYLVANIA TCA CONVENTION: The TCA has a convention annually in various locations around the nation and in June of 2024 our Eastern Division is joining with the TCA's "Keystone Division" to put on the next TCA convention in downtown Lancaster, PA. As always this annual convention and all of its tours will take place over about 8-9 days.



## Historian's Corner



[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=chapins+train+challenge](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=chapins+train+challenge)

### A Challenge or Two?

As I write this article, I think back over the years that WBA has been in existence. We have been active since June, 1964. There have been turntables and tunnels along the way, but we have come through with flying colors and are stronger today.

Personally, I like to search the internet for information. Often train related and more often group related. When searching for WB&A the first entry is the Wikipedia article on the WB&A Electric Railway, and the second is the WB&A Train Club! That's us!

<https://duckduckgo.com/?q=WB%26A&atb=v392-1&ia=web>

I don't know about you, but I think that that's pretty impressive. I do always keep in mind that searching is much like looking into your storage room. You find what is already there, so my search is most likely going to be different from yours. My challenge to you is to search. It's sure to be an adventure and you'll learn something new.

I have one more challenge. I am handing off the job of Historian for WB&A. I have been doing this job since 2011 when I took over from Nancy Swan (TCA# 73-6084). Nancy was a force to be dealt with. She lived in Kensington, Maryland after growing up in Chicago, IL. She earned a BS Degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater in 1941. She taught Basic Electronics to US Naval personnel, at the Great Lakes Naval Air Station in Chicago until her enlistment in the Navy in 1944.

Upon her discharge from Naval Intelligence in 1947, she accepted employment at the United States National Security Agency (NSA) in Washington. While still in the Navy, on March 5, 1946, Nancy married William E. Swan (TCA# 67-1823) in Washington. In 1956 Nancy earned a MS Degree in Library Science at the Catholic University in Washington, DC. Both Bill and Nancy were Civilian Employees, in Washington, until their retirement.

Nancy was an active member of the Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA), the Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) and the Train Collectors Association (TCA).

These were big shoes to fill, and I hope that you have enjoyed all the little details about TCA and WB&A that have come to you through the Trolley articles. Now it's time for new insights and research. I have a complete set of the TCQ (Train Collectors Quarterly) and a rather complete set of the NHN (National Headquarters News) together with a small file cabinet and several Trolley issues. Using these there is a plethora of information at your fingertips. And it can all be yours!

Duties include writing a Trolley article four times a year, and keeping the records current. It's a fun gig and a learning experience. Contact incoming WB&A President, John Buxton, at 410-952-7356 or me, at 410-336-8522.

Yours in Training, Carol R. McGinnis, HE95-41066



## ***"Please look after this bear. Thank you."***

Paddington Station has been the London terminus of the Great Western Railway since that road opened for business more than 185 years ago. Chief engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel designed an eight-track station, bounded on the south by Praed Street and on the north by Bishops Bridge Road, which opened in May 1854. Parts of that facility are still used today.



Vexcolt



Mercure Hotels

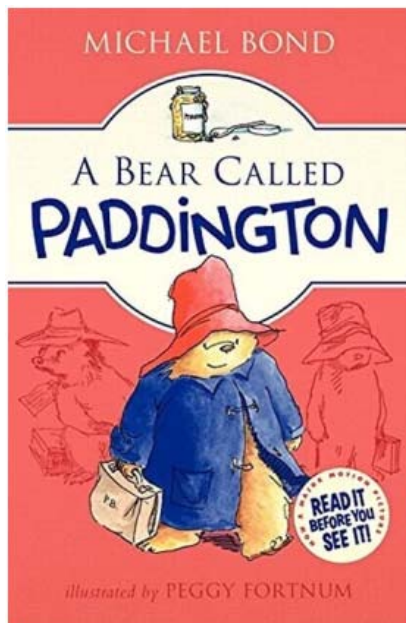
On Christmas Eve in 1956, Michael Bond bought a stuffed teddy bear at Selfridges, a store near Paddington

Station, and took it home as a gift for his wife.

Within days, Bond had written a story about "Pastuso", an anthropomorphized bear "from darkest Peru" who crossed the Atlantic Ocean as a stowaway on a lifeboat, surviving on marmalade. The Brown family discovers him at Paddington Station, sitting on his battered suitcase, with a note pinned to his coat. The Browns take him to their home at 32 Windsor Gardens. Since they cannot understand his Peruvian name, they call him Paddington Bear after the railway station.



So begins *A Bear Called Paddington*, which was first published by William Collins & Sons sixty-five years ago today.



Paddington has become a beloved children's classic. Bond's twenty-five books have been translated into forty

languages and have sold more than 35 million copies worldwide. Adventures of the bear have inspired eight stage plays, four television series, two musicals, and two feature-length motion pictures. A third live-action movie began filming in July of this year; its release date has not yet been announced.



Stefan Oemisch

And then there are the toys. Shirley and Eddie Clarkson began marketing stuffed Paddington look-alikes in 1972. The earliest examples wore actual children's boots manufactured by Dunlop; reportedly the boots stiffened the doll's legs and enabled him to stand upright. Untold millions of plush dolls and related toys have been sold worldwide. UK sales spiked last year following the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.



You can find them on eBay; you can find them on Amazon; but the coolest place to buy a Paddington is at a souvenir shop inside the actual Paddington Station.

While there, you could pose for photos with a life-size bronze statue of Paddington. It was designed by Marcus Cornish and installed in February 2000, underneath the clock on Platform 1, where the bear supposedly first met the Brown family.

When the Chunnel achieved breakthrough in 1994, the first item that passed through the tunnel was a plush Paddington which British construction workers gave to their French counterparts.

Joseph Lechner





Sparky

## Zoom and Toy Trains <https://groups.io/g/toytrains>

On Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 09:22 AM, John Miller wrote:  
"I only have a microphone, no web cam. How does one send audio and pix from pix file."

Good question. I've often thought that we should have a Zoom on Zoom's. Even after three years of this, I'm still learning.

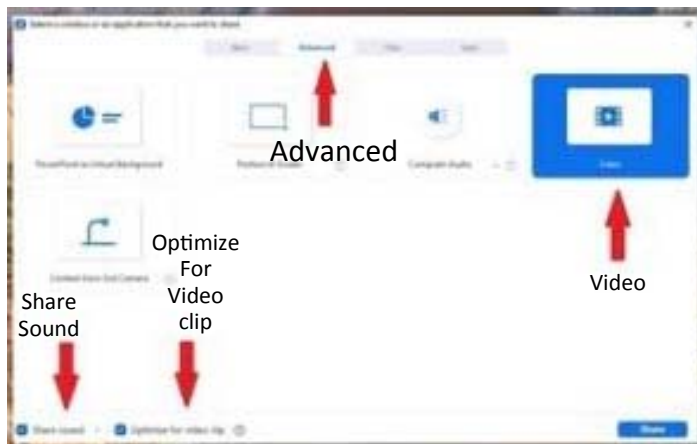
I'm guessing you are using a computer and wishing to share a video, so I'll base my reply on that. If you are using a pad or other device or want to share photos, let me know.

During the Zoom, when we call on you select the "Share Screen" at the bottom of the page (red arrow).

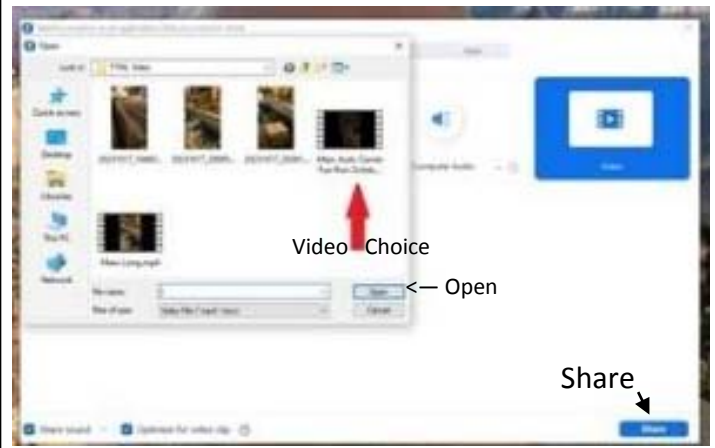


When the pop-up appears, select the "Advanced" tab, next select "Video", and make sure "share sound" and "optimize video" are selected.

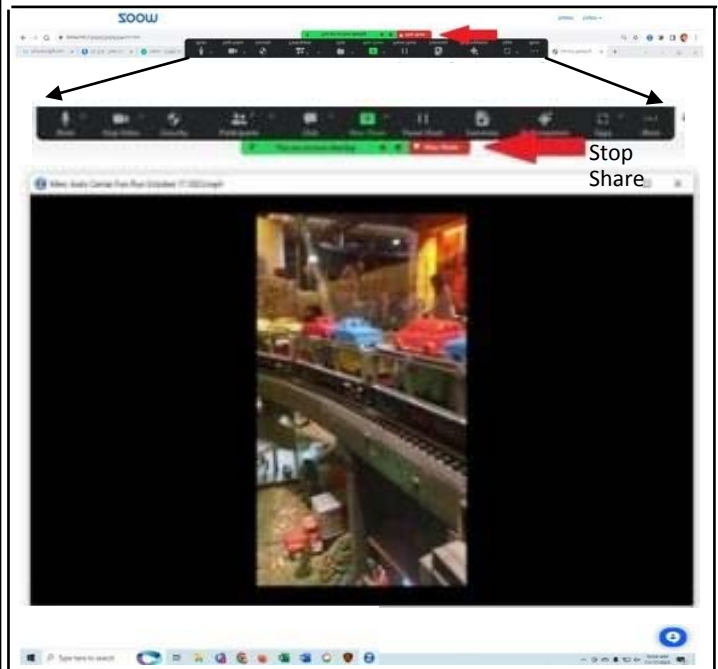
Click the blue "Share" button on the bottom right of the pop-up.



Navigate to the folder where your files are located. I put all my items I wish to share or think I might share in one folder to make it easy for me to find. Double click to get your video queued.



Hit the play button and when done make sure you select the red "Stop Share" at the top of the screen.



That's pretty much the process to share a recorded video. You can talk while your video is play but you will be blending with whatever audio is in the recording.

I have found that most of my video I DO NOT select the share audio since I pick up a lot of running track noise that is quite loud and distracting. You will need to make that decision based on your own recording.

We are really looking forward to members sharing Christmas and Holiday layouts next month so I hope these instructions will allow for more people to share their layouts with us.

We are always available to answer your questions and help everyone be part of the Zoom.

--

Chris Allen TTML co-moderator



## Garratt Articulated Locomotives are Totally Cool

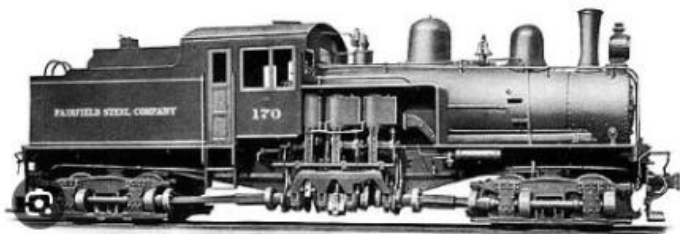
Bob Gray



There is something about watching mechanical devices in motion that just plain fascinates me.

Mechanical systems represent the best of the human creativity before computers came into being. The complexity of a computer should impress me, and it does, but it just doesn't make me smile. Mechanical things are my nature. When I'm having a bad day or I'm stressed out, just sitting and watching my model trains running makes me feel better.

To watch and marvel at the engineering genius of the designers of a Shay locomotive slowly advancing up a steep incline with its universal joints and square sliding prismatic joints and swiveling trucks is therapeutic.



Recently, I have become captivated by Garratt articulated locomotives.



The Garratt configuration of design (see diagram below) was used to provide a large engine with high performance that could negotiate tight curves that would otherwise be too sharp for multi-axle engines. They provided motive power that avoided the need for multiple locomotives requiring additional engine crews. The Garratts were able to successfully pull trains on winding, steeply inclined valley routes.



One of the primary strengths of the basic Garratt design (which called for the boiler and firebox to be slung between a pair of steam locomotive chassis that were

fitted with a fuel bunker and a water tank) was the locomotive's ability to traverse short, light-weight bridges, without compromising structural integrity. The boiler and cab were mounted on a frame that was supported at the ends by hinge points over each of the engine frames. One engine frame supported the water tank, the other engine frame supported the coal bunker. Employed in Africa, Australia, Mainland Europe (in Russia and Spain), and the United Kingdom; both standard and narrow-gauge versions were available.

So, you may be asking, "Are there any "O-Gauge" models of these engines? The answer is "yes."

In 2006, Trains.com listed the ETS Garratt, which is a South African prototype in 3'6" gauge. It may have been the only Garratt that's ever been available in O gauge 3-rail. (Below)

Electric Train Systems (ETS), a small firm located in the Czech Republic, starting with about ten employees, was founded in 1990. They started out making trains in small batches of about 150 to 250 each for locomotives and 300 to 2,000 for cars. ETS trains are made primarily from sheet steel. The imposing Garratt that ETS released towards the end of 2003 is one of the firm's more elaborate steam locomotives.



Heljan, a Danish manufacturer, makes 32 versions of the Beyer Garratt 2-6-0 0-6-2 in OO scale. Originally specializing in scenic products, kits and accessories for model railways, Heljan moved into ready-to-run HO scale models in the 1990s and have since diversified into British outline OO, O and narrow-gauge models. (Below)



Hattons Originals also produces a OO-scale N 2-6-0 0-6-2T Beyer Garratt locomotive. (Below)



A G-Scale brass model of a Beyer Garratt South African Railway ngg13 steam #60 w/ smoke sounds & lights has been available from LGB. (Picture on next page)





There are other models of commercial produced Garratts in various scales and some scratch-builts available on Internet sites.

I also understand that a full-scale Garratt (a 2-ft gauge 2-6-2+2-6-2), was purchased by a wealthy Texan in 1985 and operated, with authentic rolling stock, on his Hempstead and Northern Railroad located on his property near Houston, Texas.

One of my ideas is to run a ETS Garratt articulated locomotive on a module I plan to build to operate with the National Capital Trackers Club. Watching the main rods moving with the piston and crosshead, the main driver following in its circular path as the crank pin, as the piston force is transmitted to the wheel is the unique beauty of steam locomotives in motion.

**But don't stop here!**

The joy of the Garratt articulated locomotives comes in watching the engines operate. Below are two YouTube links for videos that show these cool examples of railroad engineering in action.

**Search YouTube**  
**"GARRATT TO TOOWOMBA STEAM LOCOMOTIVE"**  
**or**  
**"SOUTH AFRICAN GARRATTS"**

If you have any insights or experience with models of Garratt articulated locomotives, please share them with me and other WB&A colleagues. [bgray5002@yahoo.com](mailto:bgray5002@yahoo.com).



## Upcoming Events

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Jan.6,2024       | WB&A Board Meeting, Parkville, MD             |
| Jan. 24,2024     | Start Your Day w/WB&A,, Vienna, VA            |
| Feb. 3-4,2024    | Great Scale Model Railroad Show, Timonium, MD |
| Feb. 21,2024     | Start Your Day w/WB&A,, Burtonsville, MD      |
| Feb. 25, 2024    | WB&A Annapolis Elks Club Show, Edgewater , MD |
| Mar. 20,2024     | Start Your Day w/WB&A,, Fairfax, VA           |
| Apr.15-17, 2024  | York Pre-Show, York, PA                       |
| Apr. 18-20,2024  | Eastern Div. York Meet, York Fairgrounds      |
| Apr. 24, 2024    | Start Your Day w/WB&A, Rockville, MD          |
| May 4, 2024      | 60th Anniversary WB&A Luncheon, Edgewater MD  |
| May 11,2024      | WB&A/NCTM Kid's Show, Silver Spring, MD       |
| Jun. 1, 2024     | Manassas RR Days                              |
| Jun. 8, 2024     | WB&A Mini Meet, VA Location TBA               |
| Jun. 15-23, 2024 | TCA National Convention, Lancaster, PA        |
| Jun.26, 2024     | Start Your Day w/WB&A, Parkville, MD          |

## Northern Virginia Model Railroaders 2024 Open House Schedule

**Saturday, January 13**

**Saturday, February 17**

**Saturday, March 16**

**Saturday, April 13**

**Saturday, May 25**

**& Sunday, May 26 (ViVa Vienna)**

In the Historic Vienna Depot  
231 Dominion Road NE  
Vienna, VA 22180

- We have expanded the waiting room of the Historic Vienna Depot to be more of a museum.
- The Town of Vienna and the Northern Virginia Park Authority who own the Vienna Depot which houses our layout is finishing up a major renovation to the outside of the building which was really needed.

— We are excited as April 2024 will be the 75th Anniversary of our model train club.

Lauris Irby



*Look who just  
joined WB&A!!!*

Paul Blair, Jr

Roger Andes

Thomas Sellers

Cary Klimen

Zachary Kratochvil

Scott Phillips

Please send any train-related articles, stories, and/or print-ready photos for consideration in any upcoming publication of "The Trolley" or on the Chapter Web Site. Send via e-mail to:

[pullenp@gmail.com](mailto:pullenp@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES**

**FOR Apr.-Jun. 2024 TROLLEY**

**Mar. 10, 2024**



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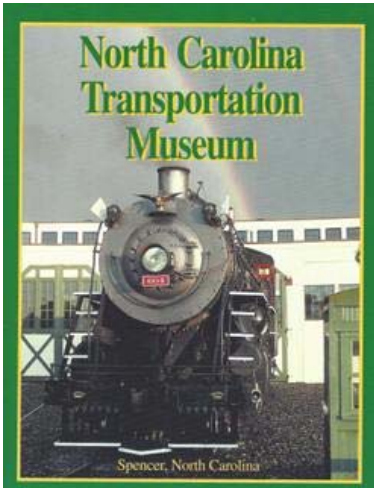
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the Group Moderator.*



## **The Spencer Shops** **By Bob Gray**

Recently I spent a day at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, North Carolina. This 84-acre museum site, located a few miles northeast of Salisbury, was formerly the steam locomotive repair facility for the Southern Railroad.



Let me take you back to the 1940s and the Age of Steam and ask, "What kind of facility would it take to service 75 steam locomotives on any given day?" The answer is the complex of structures that made up Southern Rail's Spencer Shops."



Now take a look at this building. This cavernous structure, is two football fields long, 80-feet tall and 150 feet wide.

Known as the Back Shop, this huge building is the only preserved erecting shop, utilizing the longitudinal design for locomotive overhaul. Southern Railway officially opened the shops in 1896. In 1905 the Back Shop was opened, enabling the facility to overhaul 10 to 15 locomotives at one time. In 1924, a 37-stall



roundhouse and 100-foot-long electric turntable were opened. A coaling tower was erected in the 1920s.

Throughout the 1940s and early 1950s, Southern Railway used the Spencer Shops as its main repair facility for diesel locomotives on eastern lines operating in the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia. The shops ceased working on steam engines in 1953, when the railway company phased them out. In the mid-1950s the railway began terminating some jobs and moving workers to other facilities, and by 1960 only the roundhouse and repair shed were still in use by less than 100 workers.



At the height of its operation, the Spencer Shops employed 2,500 workers including welders, pipefitters, electricians, laborers, helpers, and foremen. The work ranged from complete rebuilds performed in the Back Shop to minor repairs done in the Round house, such as changing wheels, adjusting siderods, and replacing springs.

Workers came to Spencer from all over the country. By 1910, the population of the town had grown to 1900. A YMCA was built to accommodate the numerous train crews that needed overnight lodging. Located at the midway point along Southern Rail's 600-mile route between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, the Spencer Shops were built in the 1890s and operated until the 1970s.



The Spencer Shops and associated land were donated by the Southern Railway to the state of North Carolina, which established the North Carolina Transportation Museum on the site.

The N.C. Transportation Museum is a museum featuring all types of transportation history – railroading, automotive, aviation, and more. But, take my word for it, this museum is primarily a railroad museum.

So, what can you do at the North Carolina Transportation Museum?

1. Roam through what was once Southern Railway's largest steam locomotive servicing facility
2. Take a 25-minute train ride to see the 60-acre museum campus
3. Take a spin on an operational turntable built in 1924 to turn locomotives for servicing.
4. See the largest remaining roundhouse in North America



5. Walk through a Railway Post Office (RPO) car and learn how mail used to be delivered
6. See a steam locomotive with no firebox
7. Climb into the cab of a real steam engine
8. See the 200,000th box car built in Bessemer, AL by Pullman-Standard, maybe the most colorful boxcar ever built



9. See the world's fastest Shay, Graham County No. 1925
10. Operate railroad signals



11. Operate a real diesel locomotive with the "At the Throttle Experience"
12. Earn a BSA railroad and aviation merit badge

Finally, you can get to this terrific museum via rail. Amtrak runs daily trains to nearby Salisbury, NC.



### ***WB&A Membership Update***

As we enter our 60th year as a TCA affiliate, it gives me great pleasure to report that you, the WB&A membership, have made the task of managing the club's membership in 2023 very easy.

Your prompt attention to this task makes it possible for the Club's leadership to plan and implement more and better member services.

As of December 5, 2023, our membership stands at 221, and at this time 200 members have paid their 2023 dues.

If you have not taken care of your 2023 dues, please do it before the end of the year. Any questions you have about the status of your membership should be directed to Bob Gray, at [bgray5002@yahoo.com](mailto:bgray5002@yahoo.com). A Membership Renewal Form is in this issue of the Trolley or you can may also download one from the WB&A website ([www.wba-tca-eastern.org](http://www.wba-tca-eastern.org)) under the "Membership." You can now pay you dues "On-Line" at our website. If you need assistance, contact Bob Gray.

The WB&A allows a grace period for members who have not updated their membership. That period runs from January 1 to March 1 of the following year. At that time, we remove names from our membership list and all services and benefits will end.

As always, you are encouraged to take part in as many WB&A activities that you can. When possible, volunteer to help with an event or activity. Provide feedback to the WB&A leadership team on Club activities. Go to the WB&A website at least one time week. Write an article for the Trolley newsletter. And finally, in the future, consider serving in a WB&A leadership position.





**Toy Trains & Collectibles**  
 7216 New Market Court  
 Manassas VA 20109  
[toytrainsandcollectibles.com](http://toytrainsandcollectibles.com)  
 571-379-5497

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**Hope & Dan Danielson**  
[dandhtrains@comcast.net](mailto:dandhtrains@comcast.net)

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Woody's Train Restoration & Repair offers professional repair and restoration services for post war Lionel trains. We specialize in steam locomotives and tenders. We have the ability to repaint and rubber stamp locomotive cab numbers. We have full repair shop and can rebuild smoke units, e-units, repair whistles and rewire your locomotive to almost new. We just recently added a Lionel press and can change out broken diesel and steamer wheels and perform various other repairs. If your train needs some TLC just e-mail us ([deutsche\\_marine@hotmail.com](mailto:deutsche_marine@hotmail.com)) with your needs and we most likely can help you. (Here is a sample Woody has restored back to greatness.)



**Be on the lookout!**

Atlas Trains and NJTransit have teamed up and create a full sized electric engine to celebrate Atlas's 100th Anniversary. The engine will be roaming on NJT's regular trains for the next year. This photo was taken at Penn Station, Newark, NJ.



# WB&A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Return with a check or money order for \$15.00 payable to WB&A Chapter.

Mail to Bob Gray, 1201 Topaz Court, Odenton, MD 21113

You may now renew your WB&A membership ONLINE using your credit card. (+ \$1.50 convenience fee.) Just go to the WB&A website [wba-tca-eastern.org](http://wba-tca-eastern.org) or use the QR code at right to reach the website.



If you have any questions contact Bob Gray at [bgray5002@yahoo.com](mailto:bgray5002@yahoo.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

TCA Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ WB&A Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: You must be a current TCA member to join the WB&A Train Club)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. ----- \_\_\_\_\_

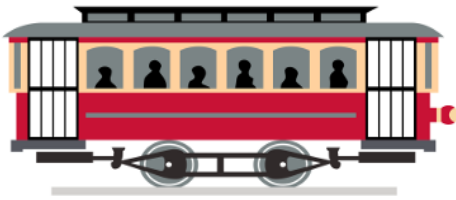
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Train Interest (What do you collect?) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a layout?      Yes      No

Do you plan to attend a WB&A event this year?      Yes      No





## Annapolis Train Show

**February 25, 2024**

Annapolis Elks Lodge  
2 Pythian Drive  
Edgewater, MD

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

10:00 AM To 3:00 PM  
Members Exclusive access 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 am.  
Contact John Gomoljak for tables at  
gojack1946@yahoo.com



**WB&A Month by Month Calendar Updated: December 2, 2023** (\*WB&A events)  
ALL DATES are SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**2024**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

\*Saturday, January 6, 2024 WB&A Board Meeting-John Buxton's Home. 2608 Proctor Ln, Parkville, MD 21234

\*Wednesday, January 24, 2024 START YOUR DAY with WB&A 10-Noon, Panera Bread, 136 Maple Ave, Vienna, VA 22180

Saturday and Sunday February 3 & 4, 2024 Great Scale Model Railroad and Collectors Show, Timonium Fairgrounds. Contact 301-221-7996.

\*Wednesday, February 21, 2024 START YOUR DAY w/ WB&A 10 AM – Noon 198 Restaurant, 15540 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866

\*Sunday, February 25, 2024 WB&A Annapolis Elks Club Train Show, 2 Pythian Dr, Edgewater, MD 21037

Contact John Gomoljak for tables at [gojack1946@yahoo.com](mailto:gojack1946@yahoo.com)

\*Wednesday, March 20, 2024 START YOUR DAY w/ WB&A 10 AM – Noon Silver Diner, 12251 Fair Lakes Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22033

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday April 15,16,17, 2024 **YORK PRE-SHOW**, 334 Carlisle Ave, York, PA 17404 Purple Hall, 100 tables. Open to vendors who collect PA tax. Tables \$50. Contact Russell Youens 804-368-7898 ([iryouens@verizon.net](mailto:iryouens@verizon.net))

Thursday-Friday-Saturday April 18,19,20, 2024 **YORK TRAIN SHOW**, 334 Carlisle Ave, York, PA 17404 (host Eastern Division)

Thursday	Noon - 5 PM	Member Halls	Noon - 6:30 PM	Vendor Halls
Friday	9 AM - 5 PM	Member Halls	9 AM - 6:30 PM	Vendor Halls
Saturday	9 AM – 2 PM	Member Halls	9 AM – 3:00 PM	Vendor Halls

\*Wednesday, April 24, 2024 START YOUR with WB&A 10-Noon. Panera Bread, 1780 E Jefferson St. Rockville, MD 20852

\*Saturday, May 4, 2024 **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WB&A Luncheon**, Annapolis Elks Lodge, 2 Pythian Dr, Edgewater, MD 21037 1 PM-4PM. Members \$55, Friend/Spouse \$45. Program will include welcome, luncheon, speaker, presentations, and door prizes. **Members attending will receive a commemorative Lionel O gauge boxcar our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Registration begins in January 2024 so watch for details.

\*Saturday, May 11, 2024 **WB&A/NCTM Kids' Show** 1313 Bonifant Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905, Set up 8 AM-11AM. Quiet Hour 11AM – Noon for special kids. Open Noon-4 PM. Different layouts. N, Lego, Thomas, HO, O, Garden G, S, and Standard Gauge. Contact Bob Gray for details. [Bgray5002@yahoo.com](mailto:Bgray5002@yahoo.com). 301-367-7447

